



Ranger-Led Activities — Winter 2005



Join a Big Cypress ranger for a program about the wonders of the Big Cypress Swamp and the Everglades ecosystem. All activities are free. Make a reservation by calling (239) 695-1201. Reservations are accepted up to 14 days in advance of the activity date.

Kirby Storter Boardwalk Strolls

Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Join a Ranger or a Big Cypress Volunteer for this 1 mile leisurely stroll through sawgrass prairie and cypress strand habitats. Bring binoculars, water and insect repellent. 1 hour. Reservations recommended.

Swamp Walks

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. and Sundays and Mondays at 1:00 p.m., starting December 26th. Discover what's out there! This is a great way to experience the swamp! Cypress knees and sawgrass make long pants necessary. Wear sturdy shoes that you can get wet and muddy. Bring a change of clothes, including shoes, for your ride home. Approximately 2 hours. Reservations required. (Not offered: January 1st, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd.)

Canoe Trips

Saturdays and Sundays at 9:30 a.m., starting December 26th. We'll provide canoes and equipment or you may bring your own. These trips vary by weather, water level, tide and ranger's choice of location and duration. Knowing canoeing basics is helpful. Limited to 10 canoes. Approximately 4 hours. Reservations required. (Not offered: January 9th, February 13th, March 13th.)

Campfire Programs

Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. starting January 7th. Monument Lake Campground. Topics will vary by Ranger's choice. Bring a lawn chair and insect repellent. 1 hour. No reservations necessary.

**Nature Notes at
H.P. Williams Picnic Area**

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. Join a Ranger or a Big Cypress volunteer at H.P. Williams picnic area for a **Gator Chat** or **Fancy Feathers Talk**. Bring questions about our most famous resident or our graceful flying feathered friends. No reservations required. A spotting scope will be available to get a close-up look at alligators and a variety of birds. Stop by with questions.

Wildlife Caravan

January 1st, February 5th, March 5th, and April 2nd at 10:00 a.m. Join a Ranger for a 17 mile drive on the Turner River, Wagonwheel and Birdon Road loop. Take a close look at wildlife, habitats and cypress trees. The road is gravel and there will be dust. We will be making frequent stops. Carry binoculars, water and insect repellent. 2 hours. Limited to eight cars. Reservations required.

Walk on the Wildside

January 9th and March 13th at 9:30 a.m. Join a Ranger for an extended hike south on the Florida Scenic Trail to view old growth cypress. Long pants and a hat are recommended. Wear sturdy shoes that you can get wet and muddy. You must carry water! Bring a lunch and insect repellent. Also, bring a change of clothing, including shoes, for your ride home. 6 hours. Reservations required.

Bicycle Trip at Bear Island

January 3rd, February 7th, February 13th, and March 7th, at 10:00 a.m. Bring a sturdy bicycle. This is a great opportunity to see a variety of Big Cypress habitats. The trip departs from an access point north of I-75, off of Hwy 29. Details will be provided when you make your reservation. 4 hours.

On Your Own

These scenic drives provide wildlife and wildflower viewing opportunities especially November - May. Turner River/Wagonwheel/Birdon Road loop - cypress, pines and sawgrass prairies. 17 miles/45 minutes - gravel road. Loop Road - cypress, hammocks, sawgrass prairies and pines. 23 miles/2 hours - 15 miles of gravel road, 8 miles of paved road.

Special Requests

With advance notice we can send a Ranger to classrooms, activity centers and auditoriums for special programs. We can also have a Ranger lead your group on an adventure in the Preserve. For more information or to make reservations for these programs call: 239-695-1164 or 239-695-1201.

Come Prepared

Carry water, insect repellent, sun protection, snacks and/or lunch, and a sense of adventure! (Due to unforeseen circumstances this schedule is subject to change.)

The Oasis Visitor Center in Big Cypress National Preserve is located mid-way between Naples and Miami on the Tamiami Trail (Hwy 41). Hours of operation: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily. Closed December 25th. For an informative introduction to Big Cypress, a 15 minute movie, The Living Waters of Big Cypress, is available for viewing. Also located at Oasis is a boardwalk for wildlife viewing and there is access to the Florida National Scenic Trail.
